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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ANKARA 005451

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

General Ozkok: Ethnic Nationalism Aims at Dividing Turkey -

Hurriyet

Lagendijk: Kurds Should Forget Ocalan - Aksam

Turkish Votes Helped Schroeder to Catch Up with Merkel -

Hurriyet

Five Turks Enter 'Bundestag' - Hurriyet

Elections Make Turks Noticed in Germany - Milliyet

North Korea Backpedals on Nuclear Program - Milliyet

Direct Flights between Germany-Northern Iraq - Milliyet

Sound Bomb Blast in Downtown Istanbul, Time-Bomb Deactivated  
in Ankara - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

AKP Blocks Terror Debate at Parliament - Cumhuriyet

Politics Deadlocked in Germany, Observers Expect New Polls -  
Radikal

Turks Delighted with German Election Outcome - Radikal

Germany Looking for Its Chancellor - Zaman

Talabani: Interests of Kurds in Turkey Lie in Democracy -

Yeni Safak

Cyprus Prepares for New Diplomatic Initiatives - Zaman

One Billion USD 'Flew' Out of Iraq - Radikal

EU to Take Nuclear Crisis with Iran to UN Security Council  
-Radikal

North Korea Ends Nuclear Program - Cumhuriyet

North Korea Gives In - Yeni Safak

Israel to Set Up No-Man's Land North of Gaza - Yeni Safak

Afghans' 50 Percent of Democracy - Cumhuriyet

Egypt Releases 1,500 Inmates, to Free 500 More - Yeni Safak

Chavez Given a 'Hero's Welcome' on His Return from US - Yeni  
Safak

BRIEFING

EU Agrees on Turkey Counter-Declaration: EU ambassadors agreed among themselves Monday with regard to how to counter in a declaration Turkey's refusal to recognize Cyprus, an issue that has cast a shadow on the scheduled EU entry talks with Ankara beginning October 3, the EU presidency said. The accord is to be approved by EU ministers on Tuesday. A British spokesman said the EU presidency is confident that talks will begin on time. The EU underlined in the counter-declaration that recognition of all member states is a necessary component of the accession process, noting that Brussels will review Ankara's implementation of its obligations next year. The declaration will also say that Turkey is expected to normalize relations with all EU member states in the shortest possible time. The draft added that Turkey maintained its obligation to support efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus problem through the goodwill mission of UNSG Annan. Turkish papers comment that Nicosia had made the EU meet their demands.

Gul to Ask Rice about Tal Afar: Foreign Minister Gul is to ask Secretary Rice the reason for the 'harassment' by coalition forces of the Turkish Red Crescent convoy ferrying humanitarian aid to the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar at a luncheon hosted by the US Secretary in honor of the foreign ministers of EU and NATO members in New York today, papers report. The Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) said on Monday that US troops in Tal Afar, discomfited by Turkmen ovations for the Turkish humanitarian team, blocked the distribution of aid material in their convoy of five trucks, ordered the Turks to leave the area, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Kizilay said it has called the International Red Cross and the US Red Cross for help, noting that such American attitudes will cause an international 'scandal.' Kizilay said that the issue was resolved soon after the calls, and that the Turkish convoy distributed the humanitarian goods to the

Turkmen in the city.

**European Parliament Kicks Off Kurdish Conference:** The European Parliament United Left Group kicked off the 'EU, Turkey and the Kurds' conference in Brussels Monday, papers report. Former Kurdish lawmaker Hatip Dicle called for economic measures to recover the damage inflicted by the 15-year long fighting in 'Kurdistan' and rights to allow 'armed guerrillas in the mountains' to participate in the political process in Turkey. Another Kurdish lawmaker, Selim Sadak, claimed that Kurds were supporting Ankara's EU accession process more than the Turks and called for a 'cleaning' of all laws and regulations from their 'uniform and authoritarian' grounds. The EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Commission Co-chairman Joost Lagendijk said that he can understand why the military and nationalist circles in Turkey have been uncomfortable with Prime Minister Erdogan's remarks in Diyarbakir. 'What I cannot understand is,' Lagendijk said, 'that why the Kurds treat Abdullah Ocalan as their sole leader, taking to the streets for the release of Ocalan instead of for language and cultural rights.' "Cumhuriyet" comments that 'separatist' elements had come to the forefront at the conference.

**Turks in the US Help Katrina Victims:** Turks living in the United States made the largest donation, 500,000 USD, for Hurricane Katrina victims at an aid concert organized by the 'Higher Ground Hurricane Aid Fund' in New York, "Zaman" reports. Tickets were sold at 10,000 USD each. UN Secretary-General Annan and leading US businessmen,

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politicians, artists and media representatives joined the event. Turkey's Consul-General in New York, Omer Onhon said before the concert that about 20,000 were killed in the 1999 earthquake in Turkey, and that Turks knew well natural disasters and the pain inflicted by them.

**Talabani Asks Erdogan to Denounce Zarkawi Actions:** Iraq President Jalal Talabani told the London-based Arabic daily "al-Hayat" that the interests of the Kurds in Turkey lie in the success of democracy, "Yeni Safak" reports. Talabani said that he had asked Turkish PM Erdogan at a meeting in New York last week to denounce the 'sectarian' war declared by Zarkawi in Iraq. Talabani said about Syria that Washington aimed not at toppling the Assad regime, but at changing Syrian policies with regard to Iraq, Lebanon and other issues. In another talk with the BBC, Talabani rejected the criticism that the Sunnis were barred from the Iraq administration, saying that some of the high-level administrators and six ministers in the cabinet were Sunni Arabs.

**Ozkok Warns Separatists, Fundamentalists:** The Chief of the Turkish General Staff (TGS), General Hilmi Ozkok, said in a message on the occasion of Veteran's Day that the Turkish military will confront the groups that want to open discussion of Turkey's unitary structure as well as the fundamentalists who use Islam for their 'perverted' intentions, never allowing them to reach their 'evil goals,' papers report.

**AKP Rejects Parliamentary Debate on Terrorism:** A motion submitted to the parliament by the opposition CHP to hold a debate on the increasing acts of terrorism, was rejected by ruling AK Party votes on Monday. Opposition leaders directed strong criticism against PM Erdogan for rejecting a parliamentary debate on rising terrorism in southeast Turkey. The parliament was recessed until October 1.

**Shalom Wants HAMAS Prevented from Joining Palestine Elections:** "Jerusalem Voice of Israel Network B in Hebrew," the state-funded radio, reported Monday that during a meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, Israel's Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom asked the Turkish FM to pressure Mahmoud Abbas to block participation of HAMAS in Palestine elections. Gul said that Abbas cannot be blamed for the actions of extremists, warning against bringing the political process to a halt in the face of such developments. Gul also voiced Turkey's interest in taking part in rebuilding the Gaza Strip, said the Israeli radio.

**Police Foil PKK Bombing Attempts in Major Turkish Cities:** On Monday, Turkish police arrested two brothers in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir, aged at 27 and 19 and allegedly affiliated to the PKK, with 2 kg of RDX plastic explosives set to be detonated by a mobile phone, papers report. A small bomb exploded in a rubbish bin on Monday, wounding a cleaner nearby in downtown Istanbul, police said. In Ankara, a time bomb made of 12.5 kg of A-4 plastic explosives and set to detonate during the rush hour yesterday, was deactivated by police near the wall of a traffic police office, only a few feet away from a busy road. Following the discovery, security measures around state offices and foreign missions have been enhanced, say reports.

**PKK Landmine Kills Technician in Bingol:** A landmine believed to have been planted by the outlawed PKK went off in the Genc town of the eastern Turkish province of Bingol, killing one person and injuring two others, papers report. The blast killed Fehmi Dogan (39), a technician making a survey, and injured two people.

**Ankara Governor Wants Gay Organization Closed:** The Ankara Governor's Office applied to the prosecutor to close the "Kaos Gay-Lesbian Organization" (Kaos-GL) in Ankara on grounds that the organization 'contradicted' Turkish moral values, "Milliyet" reports. Kaos-GL works to defend gay rights through legal action in Turkey, says the report, warning that the 'prohibiting' mentality in Turkey has re-emerged on the eve of the accession talks with the European Union.

**Roots of the US Congress in Patara in Turkey:** Dailies carry a story by Richard Bernstein in Monday's "New York Times," 'A Congress Buried in Turkey's Sand,' which said that Turkish and German archaeologists working in the small Mediterranean seacoast town of Patara in Turkey, uncovered a 'parliament building' which has 'rows of stone seats arranged in a semicircle, like the chambers of the American Congress.' 'The Lycian League was mentioned twice in the Federalist Papers, once by Alexander Hamilton and once by James Madison, so it could safely be said that it entered into the history of the formation of the United States,' said the article. It added: 'Patara is a Greek ruin, a Roman one and a Byzantine one as well, which is what makes the site, buried in sand for centuries, likely to take its place alongside Troy, Pergamon or Ephesus as one of the most important. An impressive necropolis, a Roman bath, a large semicircular theater, a broad main avenue leading to the agora, a Byzantine basilica and a fortified wall have been largely rescued from the sand and scrub brush so far.' The Bernstein story stressed that money is needed urgently to preserve the many stone inscriptions that, no longer buried by sand, face the danger of erosion, and concluded: 'Of course, there is also the parliament building, linking this dusty place to the United States, 7,000 miles and 1,800 years into the future.'

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: German Election; United Nations

##### "Colorful Scenarios"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/20): "The German election result is filled with contradictions and uncertainties. The two main rivals are winners and losers at the same time. Merkel was hoping to gain a comfortable ruling majority but it did not happen. Schroeder gained a significant increase in his party's votes but it did not help him to ensure his PM seat. . The current composition of the Bundestag makes it difficult to predict the nature of the coalition. It is not clear who will be the next PM. The only certainty is the fact that the German parliament is now open for every type of coalition scenario. . Germany now enters into a period of uncertainty. Every delay in forming a new government will have a negative impact on politics and the economy."

##### "Hard Bargain in Germany"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-politic "Dunya" (9/20): "The election results in Germany indicate a crisis. At present, there are many different coalition scenarios but it is not certain yet which one will come to pass. . In short, Germany now enters a period where hard bargaining will take place for weeks. There is another problem hidden in the upcoming bargain: who takes the premiership? If the big coalition plan is implemented, the position of prime minister will be a problem because both Schroeder and Merkel consider themselves winners. . There is one more point about the German elections. Merkel underestimated the strength of the Turkish-German voters and looked as if did not care about them. Schroeder, on the other hand, managed to get support from Turkish and other foreign citizens."

##### "Bush Prevents the UN Reform Process"

Sahin Alpay commented in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (9/20): "UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's reform package did not receive support from the Bush Administration. It was unlikely that the US would support Annan, particularly given his differences with American plans during the Iraq crisis. It was not a coincidence that President Bush appointed John Bolton, a well-known anti-UN figure, as the American representative in the UN. Annan presented some comprehensive and fundamental reforms in the UN organization but no consensus was achieved on them. John Bolton expressed content after that. . The gist of the issue lies in the ruling mentality of the Bush administration. The neo-cons are after American hegemony on a global scale and they do not care about equality among UN members."